course at the upper dam, were the satinet mills of E. A. Converse & Co., the shoddy mill

of Jacob Basch and the machine-shop of Samuel

Amidon. Next were the Hydeville Phœnix Mills,

The water, which grew greater

Company, and Valley Company tore away, though

the mills were not hurt. Growing greater, the volume

of water, reaching Stafford Hollow, tore away an

iron bridge, grist mill, and several old bridges.

Making a new channel by Beebe's store, it cut

through the highway a passage 35 feet deep and

spread over the meadow below there, but was

gathered again at a gorge half a mile above the

borough of Stafford Springs. Here it carried off

From here a mass about 30 feet high, made up of

debris as much as water, came rolling to the dam of

the Converseville Company. The people, who had

gathered in large numbers, acted like crazy persons,

and in some cases had to be carried to places of

safety. The Converse Mill was not destroyed, but

the dam went and also the dam of the Granite Mill.

mined but did not fall. Eight tenements belonging

to this company were knocked over and literally

ground to pieces. They disappeared or were ruined.

The store of L. W. Crane, the Stafford National Bank

building, containing also the savings bank, Banter

& Heald's block, the building of the Home

Mutual Fire Insurance Company, the Congregational

Church, the two-story warehouse of G. O. Cleveland,

the livery stables of Levi Gerry and Gerry Brothers,

the warerooms of William Smith & Co., clock deal-

ers; the coal and lumber yard of C. J. Holmes, the

freight depot, the town hall, the engine house, a

quarter of a mile of track and 15 loaded freight cars

were swept away. The flood set back in West

Mam-st. as far as. Warren Block, flooding the basement occupied by Bidewell & Smith as a market.

A large crowd watched the flood, all being warned,

but few thought it would prove so serious. The

Phonix Mills lost from \$5,000 to \$10,000 worth of

It is feared that Mr. Richard Spedding was

drowned. He was last seen while engaged in saving

goods in F. J. Chandler's store. He started to come

out, but seeing the water deepening, shut himself in

The accident is a terrible blow to the industries of

The loss, down as far as Stafford Springs, is esti-

mated at from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. Much of

this amount is in small sums. Among the larger

items are the reservoir dam, which cost \$15,000;

the dwelling of Otis Holbrook, \$1,500; the machine

shop of G. S. Amidon and two houses, \$10,000; grist

mill, &c., \$3,000; the Glenville Company, \$4,000;

the Converse Mill Company, \$5,000; the Granite

Mill Company, \$50,000; L. W. Crane, dry goods and

groceries, \$10,000; the Home Matual Company's

building, \$3,000; the Congregational church, \$25,-

000; Thompson & Whiton, groceries, \$8,000;

Wm. Burnell, jeweler, \$10,000; T. J. Chandler, news

room, \$1,000; Heald & Small, drugs and clothing,

\$6,000; Baker & Heald's block, \$3,000; National

Bank at Stafford, \$7,000; Levi Geary, livery stable,

\$2,000; Gerry Bros., livery and tenement houses,

\$3,000; G. O. Cleveland, grain and flour, \$19,000;

Vilham Smith & Co., block dealers, \$40,000; C. J.

enginehouse with fire engine and contents,

\$5,000; damage to towns as to highways and

bridges, \$50,000; New-London Northern Kailroad,

The damage below Stafford Springs is not easy to

get at. So far as reported from many directions it

consists of injury to bridges and roads, but no other

Ex-Lieut.-Gov. Hyde, a well-known agriculturist

and stock-raiser, lost \$2,000 at Stafford Hollow by

the sweeping away of small buildings, and about

\$1,000 worth of fertilizers in ears were swept away

at Stafford Springs. A fine meadow of 12 acres, valued

at \$200 an acre, belonging to Mr. Hyde, was also

destroyed. Mr. Hyde estimates the loss to the town

of Stafford in roads and bridges at \$100,000, and

the total loss by the flood at least \$500,000. Re-

ports this evening say that two lives were lost, the

names of the men being Richard Spedding and Wm.

The following from the Superintendent of the

New-London Northern Railroad is the fullest

My advices to this hour, 3 o'clock p. m., 'are that the

track has all gone from the Stafford passenger depot,

half a mile south, and with the track went freight cars

and freight house. Two of the Howe truss bridges are

gone-one two miles south of Stafford, 90 feet long, an-

south of Telland the track is washed away, and the South Willington bridge is probably un-

dermined. South of that another piece of the

track is washed out and still another bridge endan-

gered. Two bridges at South Coventry are in great

danger, the water being now up to the floor and reported

still rising. The washout between Lebanon and South

our boat train, has been repaired. If I receive further

No damage is reported on the other railroads in

THE WORK OF DESTRUCTION.

VARIOUS ESTIMATES OF THE DAMAGE—THE MILLS

THIRTY BUILDINGS WASHED AWAY.

IN WHICH WORK HAS BEEN SUSPENDED-

PROVIDENCE, R. I., March 27 .- A Hartford

dispatch to The Bulletin says: The Staffordville reserve

voir dam gave way about 7 o'clock this morning, sweep

Bank at Staffor lyille, the Congregational Church, L. W.

Crane's store, the freight depot, and all the hous s on the

life is yet reported. The loss in Staffe Ville is very

heavy, the mills suffering more or less damage, and work

will have to be suspended in them until the reservoir can

E. W. Converse & Co.'s mills have four sets of cards

and 1,000 spindles, and employ a large number of hands.

The Home Company, the Home Manufacturing Company,

and the Home Woolen Company are also situated there

The latter runs 3,360 spindles. The Staffordville Woolen

Company has three sets of cards. The exact loss of these

companies is not known. In Stafford Springs are the

milis of Charles Fox & Co., six sets of eards; the Con-

verse Company, with seven sets of cards and 1,800 spin

ng everything along the valley from Staffor

particulars, I will advise you. G. W. Bentley, Superintendent New-London Northern Railroad.

other imif a mile below that, 148 feet long. Two is

NEW-LONDON, March 27, 1877.

mills it is thought are destroyed.

Burwell.

account received:

this valley. About 1,000 hands are thrown out of

The mill building was flooded and somewhat under-

the Glen Company's dam, but the mills and tene-

ments escaped.

vool at the depot.

the store, which was destroyed.

work and business is sadly crippled.

NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1877.

FLOOD IN CONNECTICUT.

DESTRUCTION IN WILLIMANTIC VALLEY. BREAKING OF THE STAFFORDVILLE RESERVOIR-

DAMAGE TO PROPERTY AND LOSS OF LIFE-SEmaking cassimeres. Three and a half miles further down were the Glen Manufacturing Company's mills at Glenville, making cotton warps, and the The Staffordville Reservoir, on the East Converseville Manufacturing Company's mills. Branch of the Willimantic River, in the These two are in the upper part of Stafford Springs. north-east part of Connecticut, gave way at Below them was that village, and in it were the 6 a. m. yesterday, and a torrent of water Granite Mills, run by Geo. M. Ives, making cotton rushed down the valley at the rate of in volume by the absorption of the succesfive miles an hour, destroying mill dams railroad bridges in its course. sive ponds, as each lower dam was carried off moved at the rate of five miles an hour, The people were warned by Mr. Pinney, and from the time of Mr. Pinney's warning up to rode on horseback ahead of the arrival of the water the people were busy in rethe flood, and all except two of the residents moving their property. Lattle, however, was resof the valley escaped uninjured. At Stafford cued. When the water burst out of the reservoir it Springs, a church, stores, and dwellings were struck and carried off a side building by the Conwashed away, and the Granite Mill was inverse Mills, the dwelling house of Otis Holbrook, jured by undermining. Estimates of the loss and two bridges. It left the mill and Basch's mill range from \$350,000 to \$2,000,000, and a unhurt. Turning with the channel, it destroyed Amadon's machine shop, several tenements, and the large number of mill operatives are temporarily deprived of employment. house of Parley Howe. Then the dams of the Phonix Company, Howe

BURSTING OF THE RESERVOIR.

TORRENT-DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY AT STAF-FORD SPRINGS AND CONVERSEVILLE-DAMS, BRIDGES, AND DWELLINGS WASHED AWAY-TWO LIVES LOST.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] NORWICH, Conn., March 27 .- A disaster, like that of Haydenville three years ago in character but somewhat less fearful in results, occurred in North-Eastern Connecticut this morning, involving a loss of two lives and of property variously estimated from \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000. The dam of the immense reservoir at Staffordville, supplying several mills in the vicinity, gave way at 6 a. m., and the contents ponred down the valley four miles to Stafford Springs, sweeping other dams, bridges, and some dwellings in its path, and destroying several large buildings at the latter place. At this point the torrent entered Willimantic River, one of three large streams which, 20 miles to the southward, near Willimantic, unite to form Shetucket River. Along Willimantic River much damage was done to highway bridges, railroad bridges, and to the track of the New-London Northern division of the Vermont

The reservoir at Stoffordville is a mile and a quarter long and one-quarter wide. It belongs to the united manufacturing companies. IEm months past the water has been very low, as it has been in all other ponds and streams in New-England. The occasion was improved to raise the dam by the addition of six feet more of masonry which was recently completed. The rains of Monday were exceedingly heavy, and the nature of the surrounding country was such that the water rose very rapidly, and this morning the pressure overcame the dam with results as above stated.

The village of Staffordville, close at hand, is on low ground, but not in the direct line of the torrent. A number of dwellings and stores were flooded and some few were undermined, but no lives were lost here. The large woolen mills of J. E. A. Converse and of the Home Company, at this place, will be compelled to suspend for some time. The former runs 1,000 spindles and the latter 3,360. Below the village are the Hope Company's woolen mills, the Staffordville Manufacturing Company's machine shop, the Phenix woolen mills, E. H. Hyde's woolen mill, and the Glyn Company's cotton warp mills. The last named is half a mile from Stafford Springs. At all these mills the dams were swept away and some

Just before reaching Stafford Springs the valley widens out, and, extending thence to the village, is a flat called the Island. At the head of the Island are the Converseville cassimere mills, which lost its dam and is disabled. On the Island itself stand G. M. Ives's Gravite Mills and several tenements, five of which latter were swept away. Besides there were annihilated the two-story brick building of the National Bank, L. M. Crane's store, the Congregational Church, a wooden edifice in the basement of which stantial brick block of Heald & Small, George Helmes, coal and lumber, \$10,000; Brough Half and Cleveland's grain store, Luke Garry's livery stable, a huge storehouse for flock and woolen manufacturers' supplies, owned by Wm. Smith & Co., and the large freight depot of the New-London Northern Railroad, which also lost many freight ears.

The damage at Stafford Springs alone is by some estimated at \$2,000,000, although \$350,000 is the small figure of another excellent authority. This is a quiet village of 1,600 inhabitants, dependent chiefly on the mills for the means of subsistence. A general suspension of manufacturing will entail much suffering, beside that to which has been caused a few families rendered homeless by the destruction of their dwellings. Perhaps 30 such were destroyed along the valley and at Stafford Springs, and at the latter place two lives were lost, one of the victims being Richard Speeding. Below the Springs, along Williamantic River, the principal sufferer is the railroad company. One washout of the track is a quarter of a mile long; another, 100 rods distant, is nearly a mile long; a third is 150 feet, and a fourth is over 400 feet, at other points between Stafford Springs and Willimantic. The last two will be repaired by Wednesday. The others will require a day or two

Much solicitude was felt at Willimantic lest dame here should suffer, and also at Messrs. A. & W. Sprague's mill at Baltic, and at other large mills near Norwich; but danger now is completely

DETAILS OF THE DISASTER. THE RESERVOIR WEAKENED BY HASTY ENLARGEMENT -THE PEOPLE IN THE VALLEY WARNED BY A

MAN ON HORSEBACK-GENERAL STOPPAGE OF BUSINESS IN THE VALLEY—THE LARGER LOSSES. HARTFORD, Conn., March 27 .- The disaster at Staffordville is not so destructive as at first reported. The latest estimate puts the actual present loss at \$350,000. The following is The Hartford Courant's

special report of the disaster: The Staffordville Reservoir Company's dam on the east branch of the Willimantic River gave way at 6 o'clock this morning, and the most disastrous flood that ever occurred in Connecticut was the result. The dam has been standing some years, but last Fall the owners added six feet to its hight, the work being done by Jordan & Sons of Willimantic. The residents of the valley have never liked the change, and it is said the owners had doubts of the safety of the work, for they have never, since it was finished, allowed the reservoir to rise to its full hight. They put in an immense east-iron wastepipe four feet in drameter to carry off the surplus, and the filling of the reservoir was caused by the recent heavy rains, and not because of any intention of the owners to fill it. The body of water covered about 600 acres. At the first test the dam went to pieces, as had been prophesied by those who said it was made of frozen gravel and built too hastily. The leak was discovered on Monday, and the workmen were busy all day and night filling in about the waste-pipe. Their efforts were uscless, and at 5:30 clock this morning the work was abandoned. The water then gained so rapidly that in a few minutes the pipe was shot out of its place, the dam opened, and the flood burst forth.

Mr. E. C. Pinney of the Glenville Manufacturing Company mounted a horse and rode ahead of the

flood to warn the inhabitants of the valley. The dam stood in a narrow gorge, and below there, for the stream runs through a narrow | the Valley Manufacturing Company, the Phoenix Woolen Mills, and the Rossiter Company, each with four sets of cards. The Granite Mills and tenement-houses at Staffordville were all swept away, and also the stores and

> dams on the stream from Staffordville to a point below the Springs, with all the bridges, are gone. Probably not less than 30 houses were destroyed, and the loss will be very large. The dam was considered safe, but the heavy rains of Monday afternoon and evening filled the reservoir to overflowing. The breaking away was wholly unexpected, but the reservoir being set some distance above the village, the alarm reached the people in time for them to effect their escape.

THE VALLEY OF THE WILLIMANTIC The scene of the disaster, is the Valley of the Willimantic, one of the two fine mill streams which have made Eastern Connecticut a hive of manufacturing industry. The stream rises near the Massachusetts line, flowing southerly, and uniting with the (Quinebaug, the other stream referred to, to form the Shetucket, not many miles above the busy city of Norwich, Conn. From the broken reservoir, 10 miles south of the State line, in the Township of Stafford, Tolland County, the Willimantic flows down with a rapid current to the Shetucket through a region chiefly remarkable for its romantic hills, its actories, and enterprising population. Every few miles dams have been built across the stream, and cotton, olen, sewing silk, and other factories, and busy and prosperous villages have sprung up by them. ount of money invested in milling property along the stream is immense. At Willimantic alone, where the great thread mills are located, and where there are some very old cotton milis and several sewing silk and other factories, the capital invested amounts to several millions. The principal manufacturing villages going North are South Windham, Willimantic, Eagleville, with large sheeting milis; South Coventry, Mansfield, with several companies engaged in making sewing silk; Stafford Springs and Staffordville, in the township of Stafford, in which the broken reservoir is situated. Without this stream and the Quinebaug Eastern Connecticut would be almost uninhabited, because the land does not now repay cultivation, or would not without a manu-

facturing population to consume its products. Stafford Springs is a village of about 3,000 inhabitants, built partly in the gorge of the Willimantic, on the hills which cluster about the spot. It derives its prosperity from the half dozen woolen, cotton, and shoddy mills located there, but is known to the business world solely by reason of these mills. The place is, however, also known for its mineral springs. The waters are impregnated with iron, and have been pronounced the best chalybeate waters in the United States. A huge wooden hotel has been erected at the springs, in a park-like inclosure, near the New-London Northern Railroad station, and has been something of a resort for the fashionable world. State Senator Julius Converse, stands on a beautiful slope just outside of the village. The houses of the village are generally on the hights, and the majority of them were necessarily out of harm's way as far as the flood was concerned. The property most exposed to damage here was the mills, which occupied the valley and were most of them on the very edge of the stream.

They are sufficiently mentioned in The Tainune dispatches. The Ives Granite Mill in this village is an old and interesting establishment. The agent of it is fond of showing to favored visitors a receipt proving that he had paid about \$1,000 for a bale of cotton for manufacturing purposes back in war times, when gold was 200 and vessels began to wear linen sails because they were cheaper than cotton. The woolen mills here have been built largely through the exertions of the Converses, an old and enterprising family.

The mills and shops scattered along the stream above Stafford Springs to the reservoir are generally of moderate size. The reservoir, like all others of its description in Eastern Connecticut, have from time to time, especially since the Mill River and Lynde Brook disasters, been the subject of inspection; but it was so situated naturally as to be thought safe against a thing of

MILL RIVER AND LYNDE BROOK.

The accident at Stafford was fortunately destructive neither of life nor property to the same extent as the more serious disasters on Mill River, May 16, 1874, and that of Lynde Brook, March 30, 1876; but there are some points of resemblance which make it interesting to take a momentary glance back at those

Two accidents took place in the morning. That on Mill River occurred at 8 n. m. A guard was watching the dam, and on discovering that an enormous leak had suddenly developed out of a small one, started to give warning to the Village of Leeds, just below. The reservoir broke away before he reached the village, and the water from a poud 114 acres in area, came down like a wall and carried away nearly the whole village and a cess as a great calamity. escape by a terror-stricken flight to high lands. At Haydenville, a rush further down the brass works of Hayden, Gere & Co., the Diamond To bacco Works, a cotton mill, and several other shops and factories were swept away like a flash. Florence and Bay State villages were inundated, and a variety of buildings along the stream were destroyed. The loss of life was 140, the bodies of the victims being swept far down stream, one being found at Middletown, Conn., on the Connecticut River. Over 300 famililies were rendered homeless, and \$1,000, 000 worth of property in dams, dwellings factories and public bundings was lost. Roads and

once.

The accident at Lynde Brook occurred in the afternoon after a day of great excitement and alarm. Crowds o people had been watching a leak in the dam at the reservor, and helping along various efforts to relieve the pressure on the dam and save it. Thirty feet of the wall maily gave way, and over 600,000,000 gallon. nearly \$1,000,000. Two initis and two drages are eral bonses were carried off. Six hundred feet of the Boston and Albany Radroad were washed dway, and the City of Worcester lost \$125,000 in the dam itself. I not the above cases the dams were considered to have been built without sufficient original strength.

TEMPERANCE REFORM IN OHIO. (BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

COLUMBUS, Ohio, March 27 .- The Murphy temperance movement, which has been successfully car ried on in other sections of the State, has reached this city, and arrangements are being made to hold meetings every night at Crestline, Newark, Cambridge, and other points. Great interest has been manifested in the work, have closed their shops and joined in the work of tem perance reform. Over 1,000 persons have signed the Windham, which occurred last night, and which detained pledge at Newark alone. The meetings are carried on under the name of the Murphy Temperance Movement. The piedge reads as follows:

The piedge reads as follows:

With malice toward none and charity for all, I, the undersigned, do piedge my word and honor, God helping me, to abstain from all intoxicating liquous as a beverage, and that I will by all honorable means encourage victors to guaration.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 27.-Frederick Ford, the endon forger, will start for the East to-morrow morning, in LITTLETON, N. H., March 27.-Guy Kimball of SAN FRANCISCO, March 27.-Wm. H. Polk, third

through Old Farnace, to Stafford Springs. The National Moor of the Ship Asiam M. Simpson, just arrived liphic, fell overboard in the South Pacific Oce ATLANTA, Ga., March 27.-Col. George W. Adair, island at Stafford Springs were destroyed. All the bridges between the scene of the disaster and Tolland, PORTSMOUTH, N. H., March 27.—The United States both on the railroad and the highway, were washed off. The probable loss in Stafford alone is \$2,000,000. No loss

ship Sabine, 1,475 tons, for several years receiving ship at this station, was sold at anction at noon to-day for \$19,250. Measure Wiggins & Boulovow of Boston were the purchasers. MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., March 27.—Charles L. Craus, a farm laborer, aged 25, while waiking on the large west of Goshen to-day, was struck by the Middlet train, and instantly killed. He leaves a wife and chi

PHILADELPHIA, March 27.—Charles H. Evans, and 25 years, a commission merchant doing business at No. 122 Checumiast, committed suiced at the Markos House this morning. It is thought financial embarrassment led to the RICHMOND, Va., March 27.—A bill has passed both branches of the Legislature providing for the lease of the James River and Kanawha Canal for Zu years to Mason & Co., who engage themselves to extend the canal from fundaman, its present terminus, to Clirton Forge. The bill goes to the Governor for appr val.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 27.—In the IVth Congressional District contessed election case, the Survey Congress ofacturing Company, six sets of cards and 1,740 spindles.

In Stafford are the Valley Company's mills, the Glynn mills, 2,000 spindles; the Granite Mills, 5,500 spindles;

WASHINGTON.

CHAMBERLAIN'S ARRIVAL. A CONFERENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT-ANOTHER TO-IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, March 27 .- Gov. Chamberlain arrived here at 2 o'clock this morning. He called upon the President to pay his respects at 11 in the forenoon, at which time an appointment for a conference in the afternoon was made. The conference tool place accordingly at about 3, continuing for several hours. The President desired that Chamberlain should go over the entire South Carolina case in detail, explaining to him all the points in the complication there. This he did. In addition there was some discussion on the legal question involved in the case. Chamberlain was impressed with the fact that the President has two purposes in view. One of them is to preserve faith with the Republican party by which he was elected and to do nothing which may seem to be deserting that party either in the North or in the South. At the same time he desires by his treatment of the white people of the South to gain their confidence and to allay the bitterness which has prevailed during the last few years. The object of the President, therefore in inviting Hampton and Chamberlain to Washington is to see if some means cannot devised for accomplishing both of these ends in South Carolina. The President invited Chamberlain to call at the White House again to-morrow, and also recommended that he should consult the officers of the Cabiner. He told him that he had received a dispatch from Wade Hampton stating that he would arrive here on Thursday.

Gov. Chamberlain says that there has been no change in the condition of affairs in South Carolina for some time. He denies that there has been any such recognition of Wade Hampton by the courts of the State as Northern people have been led to suppose. It is well known that, pending the de cision which would have involved the title to the Governorship, Chief-Justice Moses of the Supreme Court died, leaving that court equally divided. Judge Willard did write an order the effect of which would have been to recognize Hampton; but before ion adverse to Hampton. The Democrats of South Carolina now claim that this order, which was never filed, is valid and has taken effect. Chamberlain and his friends claim that it has no more validity than any other private paper of the judge. Of th eight circuit judges in the State seven have accepted their salaries from the \$100,000 which has been collected by Wade Hampton, and four of the judges have given opinions recognizing Hampton's title to the Governorship. The question of money, Chamberlain thinks, is not a valid legal recognition. He and other Republicans look upon this fund as a State fund, which happens to be under the control of Hampton and which belongs no more to him than to anybody else. The judges are to be paid out of the State fund, and the fact that they have accepted them from one person or another has not a political significance.

by which Gov. Hampton could oust him from the State House in case the United States troops should be withdrawn. The laws of the State do provide for quo warranto proceedings, and if a person is adjudged by the court to be holding an office illegally, then a writ of ejectment may be issued. No quo warranto proceedings have been began against Chamberlain, and no order of ejectment has been issued against him by any court. Gov. Chamberlain says he has seen the re ports on this subject in Washington and New-York papers, but he does not know what they mean, unless Gov. Hampton takes it for granted that he could get orders from the court such as are referred to. All questions that have thus far come up in the courts of South Carolina have been collateral ones, none of them involving directly the question of the Governor's title.

Gov. Chamberlain thinks that there has been no change in the feeling of the colored people of South Carolina since the election. They will certainly feel that their rights will not be safe in the keeping of the Democrats, and will look upon Democratic suc-

THE SPECIAL COMMISSION.

MR. WHEELER UNABLE TO SERVE-MR. HARLAN MENTIONED-THE NAMES TO-DAY.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, March 27.-The Cabinet was in sescion two hours to-day. The entire meeting was devoted to a consideration of the Southern question. It is reported this evening that the President annonneed the acceptance of his invitation to serve on the Louisiana Commission by five gentlemen, but that the Administration is not quite ready to give their names to the public. They will be announced, however, to-morrow morning. Vice-President Wheeler has fully determined not

to serve as chairman of the commission. The critical state of his health makes it impossible. In addition to ex-Gov. Brown of Tennessee, whose acceptance has been known for several days, it is now thought that John M. Harlan of Kentucky, formerly ex-Secretary Bristow's law partner, and one of the most highly respected Republicans in the Border States, will consent to serve. No other names are mentioned to-night except that of ex-Senator Frelinghuysen, about whose appointment there is still some doubt. It is denied that Wayne MacVeagh of Pennsylvania is to be a member of the commission. The delay in the organization of the commission. has been greater than the President and his Cabinet hoped that it would be, is wholly due to the fact that several gentlemen who were invited to serve upon it were unable to do so on account of their health or the pressing nature of their private business. In no instance has any one declined from an unwillingness to serve on account of the delicate duties which the commission will have to perform.

It is doubtful whether all of the commissioners will visit Washington before leaving for New-Orleans or not. A letter of instructions, setting forth at length the duties which they will be expected to perform, will be given to the commissioners or sent to them in time to reach them on their arrival in

CIVIL SERVICE CHANGES. REDUCTION OF FORCE IN THE INTERIOR DEPART-MENT INTENDED-THE NEW RULES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TERBUNE.] Washington, March 27 .- Secretaries Evarts and schurz are making very little progress in their work upon the civil service rules, but they hope to give the subject their attention as soon as the Soutbern questions are disposed of. A moderate reduction of the clerical force in some of the bureaus of the Interior Department is found to be necessary, and will be made immediately. During the last few menths of the late Administration a great number of supernumerary appointments were made in that department through the influence of Senators and Representatives. Many of the appointees are wholly untit for the positions in which they were placed. The clerical force is also considerably larger than is warranted by the appropriations.

In making the reductions it will be attempted to dismiss those least competent to perform the duties to which they are assigned. The organization of poards of examination in the Interior and other departments is delayed in order that it may be made n accordance with the civil service rules adopted by the Cabinet. It is understood that in some of the departments clerks who are inefficient or otherwise unfit for their duties will be ordered before these boards of examination in order that it may be

determined whether they shall be dropped from the

MR. PHILLIPS'S ATTACK. THE FACTS ABOUT GEN. DEVENS AND THE SLAVE SIMS.

[BY TRLEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, March 27 .- That portion of Wendell Phillips's harangue at Philadelphia yesterday, in which he attacked Attorney-General Devens, calling him a slave bound, has attracted considerable attention here. Gen. Devens's friends say that Wendell Phillips has told only half the facts. Gen. Devens was United States Marshal in Boston at the time mentioned, and performed his sworn legal duty as a United States officer under the Fugitive Slave law in the matter of the slave Thomas Sims. . Wendell Phillips did not state the fact that Gen. Devens, having done his duty as a United States officer, purchased with his own money that slave of his master and immediately gave him his freedom. Gen. Devens's friends say, moreover, that in the war for emancipation he was found always at the front in the thickest of the fight when Wendell Phillips was demanding pay for speeches in the rear.

NEW MILITARY DIVISIONS. GEN. HANCOCK TO BE ASSIGNED TO THE SOUTH-WEST-GREAT PLEASURE OF SOUTHERN PEOPLE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, March 27 .- An order will be ssued by the War Department restoring the old boundaries of the military divisions of the Atlantic and the Missouri, by which the State of Louisiana will again come under the command of Gen. Hancock. The announcement is received with great favor by Southern Democrats. The change which was made by the late Administration in order to give Gen. Sheridan the personal command of the troops stationed in Mississippi and Louisana was always looked upon with great disfavor by the Southern people, especially as this order followed so closely upon Lieutenant-General's excited dispatches from New-Orieans in 1874, in which he character-ized the people of that State as banditti. Ever since that time Gen. Sheridan's occasional presence, especially in New-Orleans, has been the cause of great irritation, and has not contributed to a soothing of popular excitement there. Gen. Hancock is a great favorite with the people of the South, and while the pelicy pursued by any commanding general must be entirely in accord with that of the Administration, the reople will have an increased confidence in the dispo-sition of the President to deal with them in a friendly

THE LIMITS OF THE DIVISIONS-THEIR COMMANDERS. [GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

WASHINGTON, March 27 .- The country is now livided into three military divisions-that of the Misouri, with Lieut.-Gen. Sheridan in command; that of he Atlantic, with Major-Gen. Hancock in command, and that of the Pacific, with Major-Gen. Irving McDowell in command. These divisions are sub-divided into depart-ments, the Division of the Missouri being composed of Departments of Dakota, of the Missouri, of the Platte, of the Gulf, and of Texas; headquarters at Chicago, Ill. The Division of the Atlantic is composed of the Depart

ments of the South, the New-England States, the States of New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, and the District of Columbia; headmarters at New-York City.

The States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and parts of Kentucky and Tennessee were formerly attached to the Military Division of the Atlantic, but about two years ago, by direction of the President, these States were transferred to the Military Division of the Missouri in order that Lieut, Gen. Sheridan tuight have command in Lucisian.

in Louisiana.

The Multary Division of the Pacific is composed of the Departments of California, of the Columbia, and Arizona; headquarters at San Francisco, Cal. Prior to June 26 of hast year there was a Military Division of the South, with Major-Gen McDowell in command; but on that day an order was issued discontinuing the division and placing those States under the Military Division of the Atlantic.

placing those States under the Mintary Division of the Adlantic.

No order has yet been issued rearranging the geographical limits of the divisions, but it is believed it will be directed by the President as soon as the present Southern difficulties shall be settled, and that the States of Louisiann, Mississippi, and other portions of the South constituting the Department of the Gulf, and now included within the limit of the military division of the Missouri, will be transferred to the military division of the Atlantic under command of Geu. Hancock.

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL. THE EXPORT OF BEEF. Washington, Tuesday, March 27, 1877.

Dr. Edward Young, the active Chief of Statistics, has prepared the following interesting statement of the quantity and value of fresh beef exported from the United States to Great Britain during the eight | Lord Loftus, the British Embassador, who has made From From

1876.	New York.	Philadelphia.	TOTAL	EXPOSTS -
Month.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Founds.	Value.
July	1.170,200		1,170,200	\$101.250
	A 12412	1000	1,365,000	134,811
Angust		****	2,451,550	218,005
September	2,569,075	159,610	2,719,685	239,033
October		1.219,500	4,193,980	
November.		737,500	3,774,480	
December	3,036,980	107,000	0,174,400	040,000
1577.		****	3 550 450	055 400
January	1,796,000	776,450	2,572,450	255,430
February	3,600,610	1,318,000	4,953,610	421,457
Sea was a sea of the sea			0000000	40 005 000
Total	18,968,895		23,200,955	\$2,087,208
To Englan	4		19,409,955	1,701,118
To Scotlan			3,791,000	386,180
		to the own	antation .	vill be no-
The con	stant growth	in the exp	ertation t	vill be no-
		Lun of the hee		nd wene co

ticed. The average price of the beef per pound was 89 p

A CALL FOR FIVE-TWENTIES.

The Secretary of the Treasury to-day issued he 44th call for the redemption of 5-20 bonds of 1865, May and November. The call is for \$10,000,000, of which \$9,500,000 are coupon and \$500,000 are registered bonds. If he principal and interest will be paid at the Treasury on and after the 27th day of June next, and the interest will cease on that day. The following is a lescription of the bonds: Coupon bonds, \$500, Nos 12,301 to 46,000, both inclusive; \$1,000, Nos. 121,001 to 132,000, both inclusive. Registered bonds, \$500, Nos. o 132,000, both inclusive. R 7,494 to 7,600, both inclusive.

APPOINTMENTS.

The President to-day made the following appointments : Marsden C. Burch, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Michigan; Sullivan M. Cutcheon, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan; Solomon S. Matthews, United States Marshal, Eastern District of Michigan; Robert L. Hutchinson, United States Marshal, District of New Jersey ; James F. Lane, United States Attorney, District of Iowa; Samuel B. McLin, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of New-Mexico; Wellington Bird of Iowa, Agent for the Indians of the White River Agency in Mon-tana.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

Washington, Tuesday, March 27, 1877. Frederick Douglass, Marshal of the District of Colum ia, carrying out the civil service rules, has given notice that no removals are contemplated, and that each of the his place so long as he discharges its responsibilities with promptness and fidelity. The deputy-marshal has been instructed to give the same information to all applicants for office under the marshal. There are several handred applications from both waite and colored persons for office under Mr. Douclass. bailiffs may go about his duties with no fear of losing

The regulations allowing the Treasurer to furnish silver coin on certificates of deposit of the Assistant Freasurers and National bank depositories have been so nodified by the Secretary of the Treasury as to permit he this ments of silver to be made directly to the parties taking the deposit; deposits to be in sums not less than 1,000 or its multiple not exceeding \$10,000.

The Treasury Department has been a large purchaser of silver on the recent decline in price which followed liberal sales in London by the German Government. The Director of the Mint, who, under the instructions of the Secretary of the Treasury, purchases silver for comage, emphatically denies that the elightest favor has been shown any sellers of bullion, all purchases having been made on the best attainable terms for the Government.

The statement that the Supreme Court of the United States had declared the cotton tax unconstitutional is incorrect. The Court has never delivered an opinion on the matter. Only one case involving the constitutionality of the tax has ever been before the Court. In that

The World Mutual Life Insurance Company entered suit in the Supreme Court of this District to-day against \$33,122 as due on a contract. An attachment is claimed in the case, which will engage the attention of the Court in a short time. The main suit will not be tried until

The Post-Office Department to-day ordered mail service to be placed on the Central Railroad of New-Jersey, between High Bridge and Port Oram, 25 miles, beginning April 10.

WAR STILL IMMINENT.

THE TERMS OF THE PROTOCOL UNSETTLED. IMPORTANT INTERVIEW WITH GEN. IGNATIEFF-HT INSISTS THAT RUSSIA MUST HAVE SATISFACTION, AND COMPLAINS OF ENGLAND'S DISTRUST-THE MONTENEGRIN NEGOTIATIONS.

LONDON, Tuesday, March 27, 1877. In the House of Commons this afternoon, Sir Stafford Northcote, in reply to a question by the Marquis of Hartington, said the negotiations about the protocol were still pending, and the conditions were no ettled. He hoped to make a more satisfactory state ment after the recess of Parliament. The Vienna correspondent of The Daily Telegraph in &

special dispatch says: "I had an interview with Gen.

Ignation yesterday. He affects a conviction that the negotiations with England are not interrupted, and that there only exists a slight misunderstanding; yet he expresses himself with much bitterness at what he styles the prejudice and the false traditions of the policy of Great Britain. 'The conference cannot end in smoke,' he says, 'and the sole question is whether its decisions are to be enforced by Europe or by Russia alone.' Russia, he insists, had made immense sacrifices by mobilizing, and she cannot demobilize without getting something I observed, 'you youselves form public opinion in Rus-sia.' 'Ca c'est notre affaire,' he replied with great vivacity. On my observing that he wanted Constantinople he replied that Russia would not accept that city were it offered to her on a golden dish. Russia knows exactly what the English fleet can do, and how far pecuniary aid can help Turkey. All this has been duly considered, and the Czar would sooner go to war than endure taunts from because it is not required. He declines to be responsible for the recent negotiations, which he says were conducted by the Russian Embassy in London. Pointing to a copy of the protocol, which was lying on the table full document might avert war if England would only understand that her interests are identical with ours and not with those of Turkey.' What the General said to me is so thoroughly in opposition to what reaches me from other sources at least equally trustworthy, that I will confine myself to this brief account, which undoubtedly has its importance.

The Times's Vienna dispatch states that "the report of the speedy recall of Midnat Pasha is gaining consistency more and more since the meeting of the Turkish Paritament. No doubt his friends and adherents are taking every advantage of the opportunity presented by the meeting of Parliament to make a great effort in favor of his restoration."

The Times, in a leader reviewing the situation, says:

GRAVE BRITISH APPRBHENSIONS.

The Times, in a leader reviewing the situation, \$23.5.

When we see how our Government does nothing, promises nothing, and exhibits only distrust and condensation of Russia by restricting itself to the faintest phraseology in which an agreement can be concled, we cannot wonder that negotiations are interrupted. The fact is, that though according to the formalities of diplomacy England and Russia have been all along combined for a common purpose, the two countries have gradually assumed such a position of antagonism that they are regarded on the Continent as two rivais in a great conflet. In Russia the notion prevails that the Turks are incited against Russia by English animosity, and in England the people believe that Russia threatens certain of our interests from matinctive impulses or settled policy. It may be too late to change these feelings. We know the situation of Russia, and on our side the resolutions and demeaned of which all will be decided. It is no less regretable that the two Governments seem incapable of arriving at an understanding, and have now, as far as we can see, no point of view in common. The result must be to make the preservation of peace by means of a European agreement almost impossible.

If Russia has independent reasons of her own for refraining, there may be no war; but ministers and embressidors are now at the end of their suggestions. At least this by the case with the representatives of Russia and England. The e-haquence of this is that those who do not despair turn to the Continental Powers as capacite, possibly, of some mediation. The eyes of Europe now turn once more to the members of the triple alliance. Austria, from her geographical situation, has the preponderating influence in the Eastern question, and the nearer the prospect of war the more important dees her part become. During the first days of the Insurrection Austria might have produced pacification by a week's energetic action. That time is now past. Austrian occupation of Bosaia and H

The correspondent of The Daily News at St. Petersburg

states that the news from Montenegro is conflicting. ous efforts, through the Turkish Embassy here, to induce the Porte to yield, bas, I believe, received assurance that the Porte is on the point of doing so, but news from other sources directly contradicts this, from Constantinople represent that the negotiations with

Montenegro have not been broken off, but suspended. The cession of Nicsies is still the stumbling block. A Renter telegram dated Constantinople this evening states that the Montenegrin delegates have not yet been ordered to depart, but they are not empowered to re-

duce their demands. Mukbtar Pasha has started for COUNT ANDRASSY AS A MEDIATOR.

VIENNA, Tuesday, March 27, 1877.

The Neue Freie Presse states that Count Andrassy tends to offer mediation should the direct negotiation between England and Russia fail. Diplomatic circles here believe that the negotiations have not terminated. and that new efforts to arrive at an understanding will be made after the Easter recess if, meantime, peace is concluded between Turkey and Montenegro, this being regarded as a necessary preliminary. But in that case, adds the Neue Frete Presse, England should not, as recently, put forward the question of demobilization.

BUCHAREST, Tuesday, March 27, 1877.

The !Government has determined to issue 32,000,000 francs paper, which is not, however, to have forced currency, but he redecimable by realizations from the saie of

THE MONTENEGRIN WAR. LONDON, Wednesday, March 28, 1877.

The Standard's Berlin dispatch says it is reported from Constantinopie that the Porte is resolved not to further prolong the armistice with Montenegre.

The Standard's correspondent at Posth telegraphs that an official communique states that Gen. Ignatioff's mission to Vienna was not to offer Austria the alternative of

cooperation or absolute neutrality.

The Vienna telegram to The Standard reports that most of the papers agree that the negotiations relative to the protocol are not yet hopeless. The three Northern Powers will next try to effect a compromise on the points which ied England to refuse her signature.

THE BRITISH CABINET ABOUT TO MEET. The Post publishes the following in official form:

The Post publishes the following in official form:
There is good reason for behaving that the Cabinet today will meet under a condition of affairs much altered
since their last council. The suspense, doubt, and gloom
which then overshalowed European politics are to a
considerable extent dissipated; and while it would be
premature to indulge in any illusions, we may safely
gather encouragement from the fact that the Russian
Government is apparently disposed to meet the wishes
of England and emicavor to count to a more reasonable
arrangement than the landmissible conditions lately put
forward.

The European Telegraphic Account ways it is beautiful.

the Cabinet Council to be held in London to-day will lead to a definite result one way or the other. The Times's Belgrade dispatch reports that political disturbances have taken place in the semendria district

of Servia. Many arrests have been made but affairs are not quieter.

The Berlin correspondent of The Times says: " It may be recarded as certain that Russia will neither be en couraged by Austria to act independently nor yet re-

sisted by her during the introductory stages of war, if war is resolved upon. The attitude of the Berlin Government is supposed to be more sympathetic. If the Austrian attempt at mediation succeeds all the less im-mediately concerned Powers are sure to agree." THREE CASES OF INSANITY IN ONE VILLAGE

PORT JERVIS, N. Y., March 27 .- Jacob De Witt, O. P. Gillson, and Mrs. Geo. C. Taylor, all residents of this village, have become insa. c within the past week a soldier under Custer, and Custer's fate has been the cause of his insanity. De Witt's insanity was caused by religious excitement, and Mrs. Taylor's by the death of her son, who was killed by a policeman.